

NEWS RELEASE

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Clinton is turning back the clock on civil rights, Libertarians say

President crusades for racial preferences in California

WASHINGTON, DC — By waging war on the California Civil Rights Initiative, Bill Clinton is turning back the clock on civil rights, the Libertarian Party charged today.

"More than 30 years ago a Southern governor stood defiantly in the schoolhouse door, barring American schoolchildren because of their race," said Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach.

"Today Gov. George Wallace has been replaced by Bill Clinton, who stands at the door of the schoolhouse and the workplace as well, barring Americans because of their race and gender, turning back the clock on civil rights."

The Clinton administration plunged last week into the legal battle against the California Civil Rights Initiative, which bars preferential treatment based on race or sex in college admissions, public employment and state contracting. This week a federal judge issued an injunction preventing the enforcement of the initiative, Proposition 209, which Californians approved by a 54 percent majority in November.

Giving Clinton's phrase in support of affirmative action a new twist, Dasbach said, "End it, don't mend it.

"Affirmative action is unfair and un-American because it forcibly and arbitrarily divides individuals into groups. Then politicians reward or punish them according to race, gender and ethnicity. Under this absurd system, the son of multi-millionaire black comedian Bill Cosby would get preference over the son of a white janitor for a university admission."

Dasbach noted that Congressional Republicans are silent on Clinton's decision to challenge the California law, and that Bob Dole failed to strongly support Proposition 209 in his presidential bid.

"That's because both parties have voted for a wide array of discriminatory laws at the federal level, such as quotas that require 10 percent of all government contracts to be earmarked for racial minorities," he explained. "Now Clinton is playing the race card again, and Republicans lack the moral stature to call his bluff.

"Getting rid of racial discrimination is a noble goal, which is why politicians can't be trusted to achieve it. Most Americans understand that, even if their leaders don't."

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